



FRANCIS I. PROCTOR FOUNDATION  
FOR RESEARCH IN OPHTHALMOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO

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Glenda Treadway, M.D.  
Medical Director, Anti-Infectives  
Pfizer International  
235 East 42nd Street  
New York, NY 10017-5755

Re: Proposal to consider azithromycin for topical use in eye

Dear Glenda:

This letter is to follow up on my enquiry about azithromycin in a topical formulation for use in the eye. While my interest in topical ophthalmic azithromycin is for trachoma, it could also be marketed for other eye infections. The drug should be in a long acting vehicle to provide adequate contact of azithromycin with the conjunctiva to ensure cellular uptake, and could be given once or twice daily. With its broad spectrum of action, azithromycin is effective for most acute ocular bacterial infections and may be uniquely useful for the large group of patients with chronic lid and conjunctival infections. The only other macrolide available is 0.5% erythromycin ophthalmic ointment.

I have contacted a small firm (InsiteVision) in the San Francisco area and they are very enthusiastic about the possibilities of ophthalmic azithromycin. This company has developed ophthalmic vehicles for prolonged topical drug delivery and their products have been marketed by CibaVision. However, they do not have long term commitments to Ciba for other products. I recognize, of course, that Pfizer would make its own arrangements for product development.

My own interest in topical azithromycin is for trachoma control in developing countries. Oral azithromycin has a unique role in the treatment of blinding trachoma and is now recommended by the World Health Organization as first line treatment, replacing topical tetracyclines. Unfortunately, this use of azithromycin will depend on donations of oral azithromycin, and its availability for trachoma control will be limited. With a topical preparation, however, azithromycin in 2.5 or 5 ml dropper bottles could be more widely available for use in trachoma endemic areas.

I appreciate your willingness to consider this use of azithromycin and your presenting the proposal to Pfizer.

Sincerely yours,

Chandler R. Dawson, M.D.

c.c. Paula Luff, Pfizer International